

2012 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

HOWELL-CSUPERB RESEARCH SCHOLAR AWARD PROGRAM

<http://www.calstate.edu/csUPERB/awards/howell-about.shtml>

Important Dates and Information:

RFA Release Date: September 7, 2011

Application Due Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 (5:00 p.m. pacific time)

Award Notification: December, 2011

Maximum Award Amount: \$3000

Program Description:

The California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB) has partnered with the Doris A. Howell Foundation for Women's Health Research (<http://www.howellfoundation.org/>) to fund promising undergraduate student research projects in topics related to women's health. Together the Howell Foundation and CSUPERB recognize that research experience is critical to recruiting, training and retaining students interested in careers in women's health. In fact the great majority of Howell-CSUPERB scholars go on to apply successfully for graduate degree programs and industry jobs.

2012 Howell-CSUPERB Award Review Criteria:

Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- The feasibility, scientific merit, and originality of the research plan.
- The appropriateness of the research methods to the question(s) identified.
- The applicant's ability to effectively communicate these ideas and his/her interest in or need for the award.
- The student's academic and research promise, evidenced by a student transcript and faculty mentor's letter of support.
- The faculty mentor's commitment to the project, as articulated in a letter of support. Successful applications will provide evidence of an effective, collaborative faculty mentor. CSUPERB and the Howell Foundation expect that the faculty mentor will provide assistance and support to the student at all stages of the project, including the development of the research plan, execution of the project, and preparation of final reports.
- Successful applications will clearly explain the relevance of, or the connection between, the biotechnology-related research project proposed and women's health.

Program Eligibility and Application Requirements:

- The Howell-CSUPERB Award program is open to any CSU undergraduate student in "good standing" and planning to remain at his or her CSU campus for at least one more academic term (the additional term – summer session, quarter or semester - may be at the graduate level). Applicants must be able to complete the proposed research project within one calendar year of the application.

- Any original research topic related to women's health is eligible. This focus does not necessarily exclude general health concerns that affect both sexes, nor is health defined in a strictly biological sense. The range of topics is exceptionally broad and covers much of the human life sciences. The research project need not be focused upon female subjects or tissues.
- The proposed project must be biotechnology-related. Please note that CSUPERB welcomes and encourages applications from students in all biotechnology-related disciplines, including but not limited to life science, physical science, clinical science, math, computer science, agricultural science, engineering, and/or business.
- The proposed project must be an original, faculty-mentored student research project. Literature reviews are not acceptable. These awards may be used to support research activities as part of official school programs, such as honors or senior projects, and the proposed work can be part of a larger project.
- Recipients of previous Howell-CSUPERB Awards may not apply for an extension or funding for another project.
- Applications should use 2012 template forms and include all required sections (available and described in detail at <http://www.calstate.edu/csUPERB/awards/howell-submission.shtml>). A complete application package consists of all of the following:
 - Completed and signed 2012 Howell-CSUPERB application form,
 - Faculty Mentor's Letter of Recommendation and Mentor's Short CV,
 - Student's Transcript - an unofficial copy is acceptable.

Budget and Funds Administration:

Maximum award amount is \$3000. Applications received proposing budgets in excess of \$3000 will not be considered.

At least half of the Howell-CSUPERB Research Scholar award budget must be spent on academic (textbooks, tuition and fees) and living expenses for the student. In compliance with CSU policies, the academic/living expense portion of the award will be issued directly to the financial aid/scholarship office on the awardee's campus to insure proper handling in relation to other funding the student may have received. The academic/living portion of the funds will be the equivalent of an unqualified scholarship. **Note:** Because the financial aid situation for every student is unique, CSUPERB recommends that applicants consult with their campus financial aid/scholarship office prior to application to learn how an award might be handled.

The remainder of the funds can be budgeted to cover the student's research project-related expenses (supplies, travel related to the project). The student's faculty mentor supervises the budget. Please note that no indirect costs are allowed. The Howell-CSUPERB awards will be made to students through both their college office and their campus scholarship/financial aid office.

Application Instructions:

APPLICATION DEADLINE is Wednesday, October 12, 2011 (5:00 p.m. pacific time).

Faculty mentors must electronically submit completed and signed proposals for student applicants using the CSUPERB OARS system (<http://www.csUPERB.org/oars/login.php>). If you

have trouble with OARS, you must contact the program office (619-594-2822) before application deadline. The 2012 Howell-CSUPERB application forms and submission instructions are available at the CSUPERB webpage (<http://www.calstate.edu/csUPERB/awards/howell-submission.shtml>).

The CSUPERB program office will evaluate applications for completeness and whether they meet eligibility requirements. Qualified applications will be forwarded to the Howell Foundation for review and selection of award winners, in consultation with the CSUPERB program office. Notification of award is expected in early December so that awardees can start project work in January 2012 and attend the CSU Biotechnology Symposium (January 5-7, 2012).

In 2011, 20 applications were received from nine different CSU campuses and 11 Howell-CSUPERB awards (\$3000) were made to students from nine universities.

Post-Award Reporting Requirements:

Awardees are required to submit a Final Report within 30 days of project end date, using the Howell Report Form available at <http://www.calstate.edu/csUPERB/awards/howell-about.shtml>. Reporting helps document the project's progress, gauge the impact of the award on students' academic and career plans, and justify continuation of the program.

Upon award, Howell-CSUPERB Research Scholars will be asked to sign a photograph release form so images can be used in publications. Scholars may also be contacted by the Howell Foundation directly to report outcomes and impacts of the award to individual donors and sponsors. Howell-CSUPERB Scholars and their mentors have opportunities to present their research at Doris A. Howell Foundation meetings in La Jolla, California. CSUPERB will provide funds to cover necessary travel expenses if invited.

Program Contacts and Addresses:

For information about application forms and online submission system:

Eric Nedelman, Ph.D.
Administrative Analyst, CSUPERB
Email: nedelman@sciences.sdsu.edu
Phone: 619-594-1203 or 619-594-2822

For information about this program and RFA:

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